

REMARKS

[0003] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. Claims 1-9, 17-20, 29, 32-37, and 40 are presently pending. Claims 1, 19, and 32 are amended herein; claims 10-16, 21-28, 30, 31, 38, and 39 are withdrawn herein; and no claims are added herein.

[0004] The amendments to claims 1, 19, and 32 are merely to correct informalities noted by the Applicant.

Election/Restriction

[0005] The claims are subjected to a restriction/election requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 as containing five patentably species of the claimed invention:

Species 1: Fig. 2

Species 2: Fig. 3

Species 3: Fig. 4

Species 4: Fig. 5

Species 5: Fig. 6.

[0006] Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction. Fig. 2 is given as an example embodiment of a less efficient transcoder than those illustrated in Figs. 3-5. None of the claims are directed to Fig. 2. The transcoders of Figs. 4 and 5 are

described as being scaled down versions of the transcoder shown in Fig. 3. (See page 21, lines 11-19 and page 23, lines 5-7.) Accordingly, any claims directed to Figs. 3, 4, or 5, should be examined together. Applicant hereby elects—with traverse—to prosecute the claims readable on Species 2 (claims 1-9, 17-20, 29, 32-37, and 40) in the event that the restriction/election requirement as set forth above is maintained. Consequently, claims 10-16, 21-28, 30, 31, 38, and 39 are effectively withdrawn.

Formal Request for an Interview

[0007] If the Office's reply to this communication is anything other than allowance of all pending claims, then I formally request an interview with the Examiner. I encourage the Examiner to call me—the undersigned Agent for the Applicant—so that we can talk about this matter so as to resolve any outstanding issue quickly and efficiently over the phone.

[0008] Otherwise, please contact me or my assistant to schedule a date and time for a telephone interview that is most convenient for both of us. While email works great for us, I welcome your call to either of us as well. Our contact information may be found on the last page of this response.

Conclusion

[0009] All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the **Examiner is urged to contact me before issuing a subsequent Action.** Please call/email me or my assistant at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 6/21/09

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